



Efforts to Improve Understanding of GHG Emissions in California

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GHG Inventory is A Basic Tool

Ability to evaluate policies and programs aimed at reducing GHG emissions requires accurate and affordable measurement of emissions over time.

The statewide GHG inventory, a ground breaking effort, can be improved with the development new approaches to estimating difficult to quantify sources, and with collection of additional information currently not available for a more accurate statewide assessment of emissions.

Forestry & Land Use Change

Forestry and land-use change projects are expected to be among the least-cost near-term options for reducing GHG in the atmosphere. SB 812 (Sher, 2002) mandated the California Registry to develop rules to monitor and quantify carbon stored in the state's forests and soils.

More effort is needed to define and implement an accurate, credible, affordable, and transparent accounting system for projects that store carbon in California's forests, soils and vegetation.

Actions to Improve the Statewide GHG Emissions Inventory

- **Identify uncertainties associated with different emissions sources, potential new sources currently omitted from inventories, and prioritize sources for development of improved emissions quantification procedures.**
- **Expand the existing collection of information by local and state agencies designed to improve the estimation of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases.**

Additional Measures to Improve California's GHG Inventory

- **Review federal sources of information to determine how data collection efforts can be enhanced to provide more accurate results at the state level**
- **Work with owners and operators of refineries, fuel sales and distribution companies, and local and state agencies to facilitate improved reporting fuel sales and consumption at the state level**

More on GHG Inventory Methods

- **Work with airports and marine ports to develop a system for estimating fuel consumed for domestic and international transport**
- **Continue to improve data collection with refineries to allow estimation of fuels consumed during the production of petrochemicals**
- **Support research efforts that focus on a better understanding of non-CO₂ gases emitted from a wide range of sources within the state**

Standardize Methods to Report GHG Emissions of Organizations

- **Assist CA Registry in their efforts to develop new standardized techniques for reporting GHGs**
- **Develop techniques to estimate GHG emissions associated with consumption of electricity**
- **Enhance state's ability to monitor and evaluate emerging carbon trading markets and identify actions to help California businesses and residents benefit from these new markets**

Improve at State & Local Levels

- **Provide coordinated efforts to improve methods of estimating criteria and GHG emissions at reasonable cost and appropriate accuracy for California organizations**
- **Support local governments in their efforts to estimate GHG emissions as a way to gain a better understanding of the effectiveness of energy and air quality policy measures**

SUMMARY

- **A standardized, appropriately accurate, transparent and affordable method of accounting for GHG emissions is vital to the state's ability to assess effectiveness of policies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions**
- **California will need to increase coordination efforts with local governments, other states, federal agencies, and international organizations with efforts to develop a universally accepted approach to GHG accounting**